

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-21, 24, and 27-31 are presently active in this application, Claims 16, 19 and 24 having been amended, Claims 22, 23, 25 and 26 canceled and new Claim 31 added by the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 16-22, 24-25 and 27-30 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooper (US 6,150,930) and Claims 23 and 26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but otherwise were indicated as including allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, and to expedite issuance of a patent from the present application, Claims 16 and 19 have been amended to include the subject matter of Claims 22-23 and 25-26, respectively, and Claims 22-23 and 25-26 have been canceled. Claim 24 has been amended to correct an informality. New Claim 31 has been added to state a varied scope of protection. No new matter has been added. In view of these amendments, the pending independent Claims 16 and 19 include the subject matter indicated as being allowable, and thus the outstanding ground for rejection is believed to have been overcome.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment,

no further issues are outstanding, and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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